

REMARKS

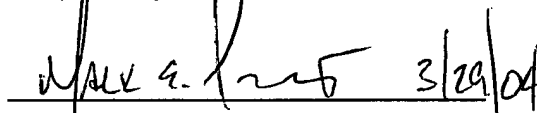
Claims 19-44 have been added. Original Claims 1-18 remain unchanged in this reissue application. Claims 1-44 now remain pending in this application. A statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.173(c) is provided below. In view of the above, Applicants submit that pending Claims 1-44 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 1-44 at an early date is solicited.

Corresponding action is respectfully solicited.

PTO is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our account #02-0900.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should any questions arise.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature, likely of Mark E. Tetreault, is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the date "3/29/04" is handwritten.

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.173(c)
Status of Claims and Support of Claims

Claims 1-18 are pending and unchanged from the original patent and remain in the reissue application.

New Claim 19 after further consideration and investigation, Applicant has discovered that the scope of original independent claim 1 was overly narrow in view of the state of the art at the time the application was filed. Applicant submits this claim to capture subject matter that lies within the scope of the disclosure that was not originally captured in the claims of the patent as issued. Specifically, Applicant has amended the language to eliminate excess language and non-functional elements from the claim to more clearly identify the invention. Further the top handguard and bottom handguard have been revised to a single fixed handguard assembly.

New Claim 20 is a new dependent claim depending from new Claim 19.

New Claim 21 corresponds to Claim 5 and is dependent on new Claim 19.

New Claims 22-25 further define the claimed structures in Claims 13, 14 and 15 and are dependent on new Claim 19.

New Claim 26 after further consideration and investigation, Applicant has discovered that the scope of original independent claim 1 was overly narrow in view of the state of the art at the time the application was filed. Applicant submits this claim to capture subject matter that lies within the scope of the disclosure that was not originally captured in the claims of the patent as issued. Specifically, Applicant has amended the language to eliminate excess language and non-functional elements from the claim to more clearly identify the invention. Further the top handguard and bottom handguard have been revised to a single fixed handguard assembly.

New Claim 27 corresponds to Claim 8 and is dependent on new Claim 26

New Claim 28 corresponds to Claim 5 and is dependent on new Claim 26.

New Claim 29 corresponds to Claim 13 and is dependent on new Claim 26.

New Claim 30 corresponds to Claim 12 and is dependent on new Claim 26.

New Claim 31 corresponds to Claim 12 and is dependent on new Claim 26.

New Claims 32 and 33 further define the claimed structures in Claims 13, 14 and 15 and are dependent on new Claim 32.

New Claim 34 corresponds to Claim 12 and is dependent on new Claim 32.

New Claim 35 corresponds to Claim 13 and is dependent on new Claim 32.

New Claim 36 corresponds to Claim 1 and eliminates excess language and non-functional elements from the claim to more clearly identify the invention.

New Claim 37 after further consideration and investigation, Applicant has discovered that the scope of original independent claim 1 was overly narrow in view of the state of the art at the time the application was filed. Applicant submits this claim to capture subject matter that lies within the scope of the disclosure that was not originally captured in the claims of the patent as issued. Specifically, Applicant has amended the language to eliminate excess language and non-functional elements from the claim to more clearly identify the invention. Further the top handguard and bottom handguard have been revised to a single fixed handguard assembly.

New Claim 38 corresponds to Claim 13 and is dependent on new Claim 37.

New Claim 39 after further consideration and investigation, Applicant has discovered that the scope of original independent claim 1 was overly narrow in view of the state of the art at the time the application was filed. Applicant submits this claim to capture subject matter that lies within the scope of the disclosure that was not originally captured in the claims of the patent as issued. Specifically, Applicant has amended the language to eliminate excess language and non-functional elements from the claim to

more clearly identify the invention. Further the top handguard and bottom handguard have been revised to a single fixed handguard assembly.

New Claim 40 after further consideration and investigation, Applicant has discovered that the scope of original independent claim 1 was overly narrow in view of the state of the art at the time the application was filed. Applicant submits this claim to capture subject matter that lies within the scope of the disclosure that was not originally captured in the claims of the patent as issued. Specifically, Applicant has amended the language to eliminate excess language and non-functional elements from the claim to more clearly identify the invention. Further the top handguard and bottom handguard have been revised to a single fixed handguard assembly

New Claim 41 corresponds to Claim 4 and is dependent on new Claim 40.

New Claim 42 corresponds to Claim 4 and is dependent on new Claim 40.

New Claim 43 after further consideration and investigation, Applicant has discovered that the scope of original independent claim 1 was overly narrow in view of the state of the art at the time the application was filed. Applicant submits this claim to capture subject matter that lies within the scope of the disclosure that was not originally captured in the claims of the patent as issued. Specifically, Applicant has amended the language to more broadly define the system as an integrated modular weapons interface system and its function is not necessarily limited to use with a firearm.

New Claim 44 corresponds to Claim 4 and is dependent on new Claim 43.